

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

March 2005



Data revisions and definition changes

Revisions: Civilian labor force and unemployment data (in table below and charts throughout) for 2004 has been revised and will be revised again before next month's data is released.

New definitions: Through December 2003, Dane County constituted the Madison Metropolitan Statistical Area. Data reported henceforth will use the new Madison MSA definition, which includes Columbia, Dane and Iowa counties. Monthly employment-by-industry estimates will no longer be available for these counties individually.

The unemployment rate in **Columbia County** has risen more slowly than it usually does during the winter months, leaving it 1.4 percent below the typical February level. (See graph above.) This roughly matches February 2004

and January 2003 for being as far below the typical rate as any month's rate has been at any point in the last year.

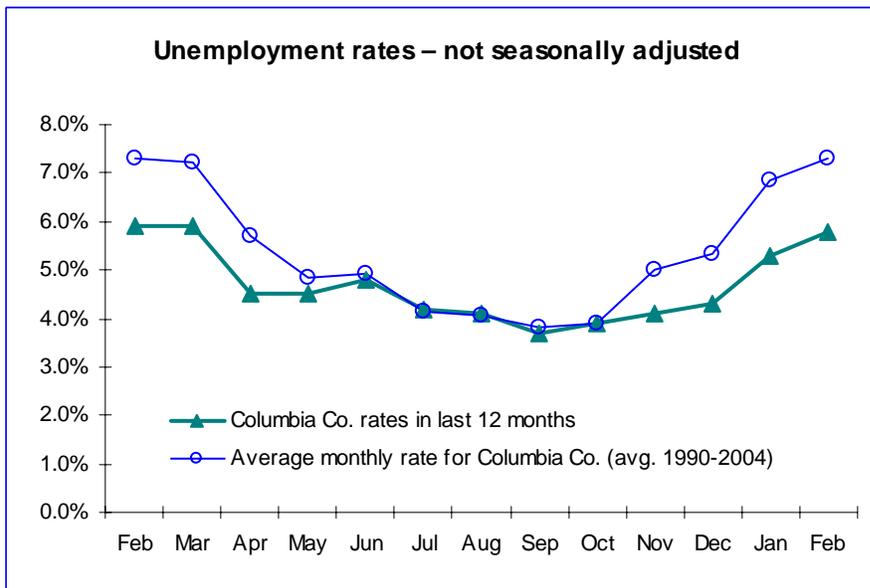
From June through November, **Dane County's** unemployment

tical Area (which now contains Columbia, Dane and Iowa counties), employment estimates for professional & business services are further above their year-ago levels than they have been at any point in the last

year. At the same time, employment estimates for the construction, mining & natural resources sector are as far below year-ago levels as they have been in the last 12 months.

Since October, the **Dodge County** unemployment rate has followed its typical seasonal trends and re-

mained about 0.7 percent above its typical level. Late last summer, retail & wholesale employment estimates climbed to over 400 jobs or 10 per-



rates appeared to inch closer to typical levels, but January and February saw rates climb faster than usual. In the **Madison Metropolitan Statis-**

Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia County			Dane County		
	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	3,047,500	100	-12,900	443,500	290	-570	31,400	60	160	282,900	110	1,490
Employed	2,870,500	-12,300	-1,870	423,400	-1,720	360	29,600	-110	190	272,700	-1,000	1,780
Unemployed	177,000	12,400	-11,000	20,100	2,000	-930	1,820	160	-30	10,200	1,110	-290
Unemployment rate	5.8%	0.4%	-0.3%	4.5%	0.4%	-0.2%	5.8%	0.5%	-0.1%	3.6%	0.4%	-0.1%
	Dodge County			Jefferson County			Marquette County			Sauk County		
	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	45,600	10	-1,010	42,700	-40	-730	7,800	-10	-120	33,100	160	-370
Employed	42,800	-280	-630	40,100	-260	-550	7,100	-30	-80	31,100	-30	-350
Unemployed	2,800	290	-380	2,500	220	-170	680	20	-40	2,000	190	-20
Unemployment rate	6.1%	0.6%	-0.7%	6.0%	0.6%	-0.3%	8.8%	0.3%	-0.4%	6.1%	0.5%	0.0%

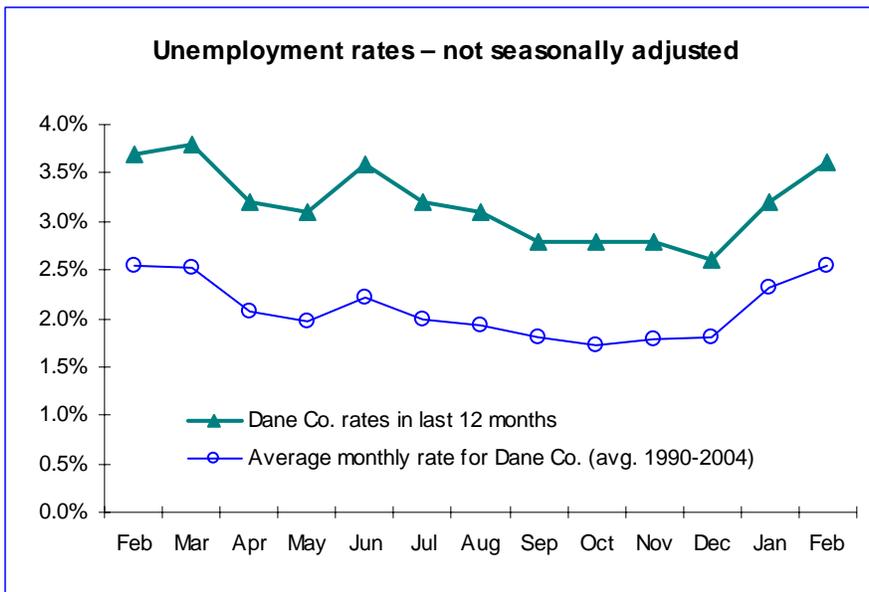
** Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

cent above year-ago levels; now those estimates are barely more than 250 jobs or 6.5 percent above year-ago levels. Construction employment estimates had been consistently above year-ago estimates by a healthy margin (roughly 60 to 120 jobs or 3 to 6 percent) until the February estimate (just 20 jobs or 1 percent above the year-ago level).

Rising faster than it usually does in January and February, **Jefferson County's** unemployment rate is further above its typical level than it has been since July. Despite declines in recent months, retail & wholesale trade employment estimates remain above year-ago levels. Last April, construction employment estimates were roughly 270 jobs or 18.4 percent above year-ago levels; now they are barely 100 jobs or 6.9 percent above year-ago levels.

In **Marquette County**, the unemployment rate did not rise as quickly as it usually does in the autumn and winter, so

unemployment rates have been lower than usual since November. Last spring and last summer, leisure & hospitality employment estimates exceeded above year-ago levels by margins as high as 60 jobs or 12 percent; since November, leisure & hospitality employment estimates have been within about 10 jobs or 3 percent of year-ago estimates.



Sauk County's unemployment rate has spent most of the last year within a half a percent of its typical levels and the February rate is no exception. Although leisure & hospitality employment estimates dipped below year-ago levels last autumn, they are starting to show signs of beginning the upward march toward the summer peak. The financial services sector's employment estimates are further ahead of year-ago estimates

than any other sector (including, significantly, leisure & hospitality.) Sauk County probably will not see as many new banking locations open in 2005 as it did in 2004.

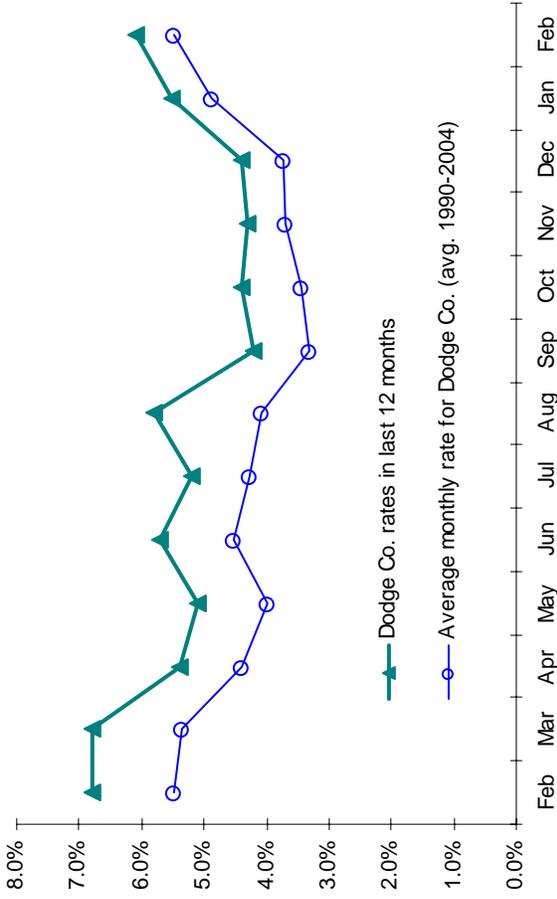
Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			Madison MSA			Dodge County		
	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,765,400	15,700	38,100	333,500	900	5,700	33,400	- 90	140
Const., min'g & nat. resources	116,300	1,500	5,500	13,600	- 300	- 1,200	1,900	- 110	20
Manufacturing	497,900	1,600	5,300	31,600	- 200	200	10,300	20	- 100
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	421,600	- 7,000	2,500	51,000	- 400	700	4,300	- 70	260
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	104,100	- 600	700	8,500	100	200	880	0	- 30
Financial activities	156,800	200	300	28,000	0	900	810	- 10	0
Education & health services	383,300	2,800	12,000	34,100	0	900	4,300	- 10	50
Leisure & hospitality	233,500	- 800	4,100	27,000	- 200	300	2,100	0	- 60
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	425,600	3,100	1,700	58,500	1,100	2,700	3,400	20	20
Government	426,300	14,900	6,000	81,200	800	1,000	5,500	60	- 20

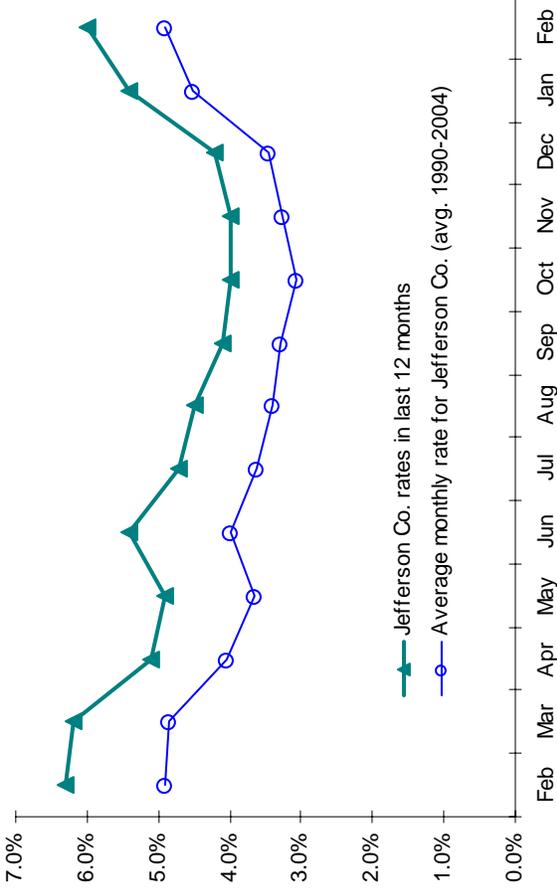
	Jefferson County			Marquette County			Sauk County		
	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2005	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	35,800	- 60	- 170	3,800	0	50	35,200	190	290
Const., min'g & nat. resources	1,370	- 50	90	110	0	- 30	1,790	50	20
Manufacturing	9,800	- 100	- 290	1,230	10	20	6,500	- 20	130
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	5,800	- 70	40	420	- 10	0	6,200	- 100	- 240
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	1,180	0	- 10	60	0	0	640	0	- 20
Financial activities	1,020	0	30	130	0	10	2,100	60	280
Education & health services	4,400	50	- 130	330	0	10	3,500	30	60
Leisure & hospitality	2,900	- 20	- 50	400	10	10	6,300	190	260
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	5,300	50	300	330	0	30	2,800	- 60	- 240
Government	4,000	90	- 150	820	0	10	5,400	50	50

*Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

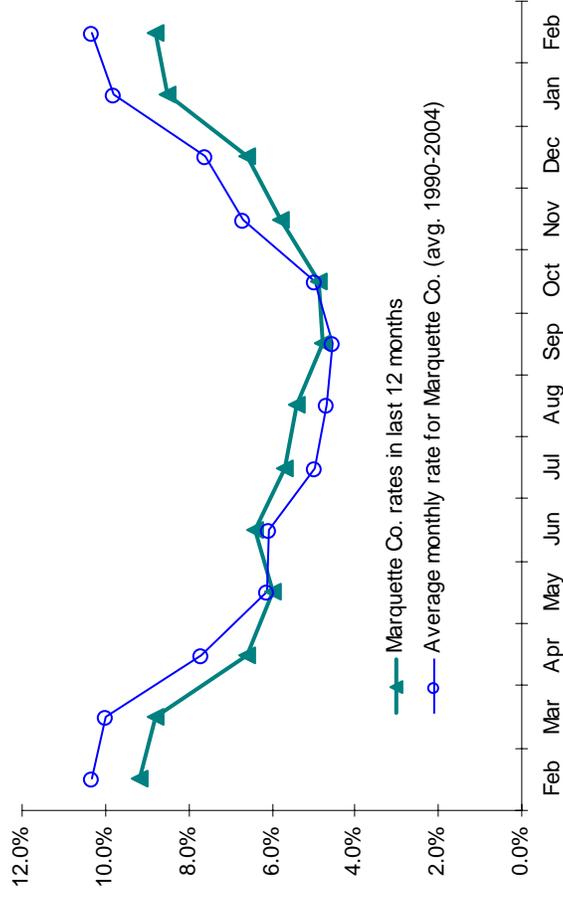
Unemployment rates – not seasonally adjusted



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